CLAIMS

We claim:

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44. (original) A method for treating a patient for a bone related condition comprising the steps of:

measuring a bone characteristic level in a bone of said patient to yield a T-score having a value;

if the T-score is abnormal, conducting a gait analysis to yield a gait characterization;

if the gait characterization is abnormal, measuring a bone marker concentration in at least one body fluid of said patient to yield a bone marker level having a value;

prescribing a therapy based on at least one of the said gait characterization, said T-score, and bone marker level; and

designating a future time to repeat said measurement of a bone characteristic level, said gait analysis, and said measurement of a bone marker concentration.

45. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein said future time to repeat said measurement of a bone characteristic level is during the twelfth month from the previous measurement.

46. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein the step of designating a future time to repeat said gait analysis includes scheduling a series of eight gait analyses over a period of time.

47. (original) The method of claim 44 wherein said future time to repeat said bone marker measurement is during the third month from the previous measurement.

48. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the bone characteristic level is measured using a bone characteristic measuring unit, comprising: a space for housing said bone of said patient; a positioning device for holding said bone; a plurality of ultrasound transducers for transmitting and detecting signals; and an output for outputting said first score value.

49. (new) The method of claim 48 wherein the bone characteristic is a quantitative ultrasound index.

50. (new) The method of claim 48 wherein the bone characteristic is a stiffness index.

51. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the bone characteristic level is measured using X-ray absorptiometry.

52. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the bone characteristic level is measured using quantitative ultrasonometry.

53. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the bone characteristic level is measured using quantitative computed tomography.

54. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the bone characteristic is bone mineral density.

55. (new) The method of claim 44 further comprising the step of assessing a plurality of risk factors attributable to the patient.

56. (new) The method of claim 55 wherein said therapy is prescribed based at least in part upon an assessment of patient risk factors.

57. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein said therapy is prescribed based upon an output of an integrated unit having received the T-score, the gait characterization, and the bone marker level.

58. (new) The method of claim 57, wherein said integrated unit comprises a receiver in data communication with a processing unit and a display unit in data communication with the processing unit.

59. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the bone marker concentration is measured by a bone marker measurement device, wherein said device comprises: a container containing a body fluid; a mechanism for holding the said container; an analyzer for determining a concentration of an absorbing constituent in a solution; and an output for outputting the bone marker level value.

60. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the gait analysis is characterized by a gait analysis procedure conducted on said patient having a balance, wherein said procedure comprises the steps of: examining the balance of the patient wherein the patient is standing on both feet; examining the balance of the patient wherein the patient is standing on a first foot; and examining the balance of the patient wherein the patient is standing on a second foot.

61. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the gait analysis is characterized by a gait analysis procedure conducted on said patient having a balance, wherein said procedure comprises the steps of: having the patient stand on a plurality of platforms; detecting pressure exerted on said plurality of platforms; and determining a pressure differential on said plurality of platforms.